

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 FEA-01 /073 W
-----125469 061407Z /12
R 051348Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2813

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7141

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AU, C
SUBJ: ECUADOREAN FIANANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON POLITICAL AND
OTHER TOPICS

1. EMBOFF WHO IS PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE OF FINANCE MINISTER
SANTIAGO SEVILLA FROM PREVIOUS QUITO ASSIGNMENT HAD
OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH SEVILLA AFTER OPEC
FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING. SEVILLA WILL LEAVE VIENNA
AUG. 5 AND BE BACK AT HIS DESK ON MONDAY.

2. RE: OPEC, SEVILLA MENTIONED ONLY THAT HE WAS PLEASED
WITHOUTCOME OF FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING AND ESPECIALLY
WITH ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR USE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S
FUND FOR ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE ALSO INDICATED
HIS AGREEMENT WITH WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THE TREND
TOWARDS MODERATION IN OPEC'S PRICING POLICY.

3. TURNIGN TO ECUADOR, SEVILLA SAID THAT, WITH NATIONAL
ELECTIONS APPROACHING AND THE IMPENDING TRANSFER OF POWER
FROM THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO A POPULARLY-ELECTED
ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS CONCERNED BY THE LCK OF POPULAR
LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY. ASAD BUCARAM APPEARED TO BE
THE ONLY BPUBLIC FIGURE WHO WAS BOTH A WILLING CANDIDATE
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FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND WHO WOULD RECEIVE A MEASURE OF
SUPPORT. BUCARAM, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE
TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. SEVILLA FEARED THAT, IF
BUCARAM WON, QUOTE THE COLONELS UNQUOTE MIGHT TRY
ANOTHER COUP. ADMIRAL POVEDA HIMSELF SHOWS NO INCLI-
NATION TO RUN, NOR DOES ANYONE ELSE IN A HIGH POSITION
IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. AS FOR GALO PLAZA, FOMER

OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL, HE HAS BEEN SALUTARY
INFLUENCE IN PRESSING FOR ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE; HE
HAS NOT, HOWEVER, DECLARED HIMSELF WILLING TO BE A
CANDIDATE.

4. SEVILLA SAID THE COST TO THE GOE OF SUBSIDIZING
RETAIL GASOLINE SALES IS NOW 7 BILLION SUCRES (SIC)
AND THIS THE GOVERNMENT CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE. THE
GOE THEREFORE INTENDS TO INCREASE RETAIL PRICES IN THE
NEAR FUTURE.BORG

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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